



# State of Utah


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 2, 1997

TO: Minerals File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor 

RE: Site Inspection, Shivwits South Gypsum Project, S/053/008, Washington County, Utah

Date of Inspection: December 2, 1997  
Time of Inspection: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Sunny, windy, cool  
Participants: Larry Gore, BLM; Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To investigate the status of the suspended operations and to determine the reclamation requirements

This mine site has been in a period of suspension for quite a number of years. It appears that the only gypsum material taken off the site was a large bulk sample for testing purposes. No significant mining has ever taken place at this mine site. The primary access trail/road leading into this site is washed out in a number of places, which prevented vehicular access to the mine site; therefore, we had to park our vehicle and walk into the site which took approximately ½ hour each way.

We noted that the access road is naturally revegetating fairly well; especially the upper section of the road which enters the mouth of a small canyon leading to the mine. The middle and lower sections of the road were marginally revegetated at best. The operator and claimant, Mr. John Welsh, has requested that this site remain in it's present, unreclaimed state and lists the following reasons for this recommendation: a) the site has been inactive for a long time and the natural revegetation has subsequently occurred, and 2) the small amount of remaining disturbance.

It was apparent upon our inspection of the mine site that the native vegetation from the surrounding area has come back naturally, for the most part, with the exception of the exposed gypsum outcrop face where the bulk gypsum sample(s) had been removed. There is about 1/4 acre or less of disturbed area that could be recontoured to some extent. However, in the process of recontouring this remaining area, it is almost certain that more area would be disturbed/impacted than presently exists. Mr. Gore and I both agreed that no additional reclamation work would be required within the mine site given these conditions.

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A series of photographs were taken of the site to document the extent of the remaining disturbance and the natural revegetation success that has occurred. Some question remains as to whether some additional work may ultimately be required on the access road leading into the site. Mr. Welsh has requested that the claims remain active; therefore, access to the site would need to be maintained. Mr. Gore indicated that the access road would subsequently be left open until such time as the claimant decided to abandon the claims. At that time, a decision would be made as to whether additional recontouring and reclamation work would be required on portions of the road, which had not to date become adequately revegetated.

jb  
cc: John Welsh, Operator  
Larry Gore, BLM Dixie RA (DRA88-47-11N)  
Welsh-so.ins